MOTOR VEHICLES: AUTHORISATION OF SPECIAL TYPES

ORDER DATED 2ND OCTOBER, 1956, MADE BY THE MINISRY OF HOME AFFAIRS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER SUB-SECTION (3) OF SECTION FIVE OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1955.

1956. No. 152 [C]

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in exercise of the powers vested in it by sub-section (3) of Section five of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland), 1955,(a) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:—

PART I. GENERAL

Commencement, Citation and Interpretation

1.—(1) This Order shall come into operation on the second day of October, 1956, and may be cited as "The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order (Northern Ireland), 1956".

(2) In this Order, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:—

"Use and Construction Regulations" means the Motor Vehicles (Use and Construction) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1956(b);

"Track Laying Regulations" means the Motor Vehicles (Use and Construction) (Track Laying Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1956(c);

"articulated vehicle", "land locomotive", "land tractor" and "overhang" have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Use and Construction Regulations.

Speed limits

2. Nothing in this Order relating to the speed of vehicles shall be taken to authorise any speed which is in excess of any other speed limit imposed by or under any enactment.

PART II. MISCELLANEOUS VEHICLES

Track laying vehicles

3. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of track laying motor vehicles and track laying trailers notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Use and Construction Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(a) a vehicle shall be used only for the purpose of demonstration;

(a) 1955 c. 27.
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1956 No. 134.
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1956 No. 149.

(*b*) before a vehicle is so used the consent of every road authority or every person responsible for the maintenance and repair of any road over which it is proposed that the vehicle shall pass shall in each case be obtained in writing.

Naval, military, air force and civil aviation vehicles

4. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of the vehicles specified in Column 1 of the First Schedule notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Regulations of the Use and Construction Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations respectively specified opposite thereto in Column 2 of the said Schedule, subject to the vehicles being the property of, or for the time being under the control of, the persons respectively specified opposite thereto in Column 3 of the said Schedule.

Vehicles used in connection with the saving of life at sea

5. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of track laying motor vehicles and track laying trailers notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Use and Construction Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations, subject to the vehicles being used only for drawing or in connection with the launching of lifeboats the property of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Grass cutting machines and hedge trimmers

6. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of grass cutting machines and hedge trimmers not constructed, adapted or used for carrying any person notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Use and Construction Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) a vehicle shall comply with Regulations 14, 18, 19, 63, 67, 69, 71, 72, 73 and 89 of the Use and Construction Regulations;

(*b*) the unladen weight of a vehicle shall not exceed 8 cwt.; and

(*c*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 7 feet 6 inches except when the vehicle is actually engaged in grass cutting or hedge trimming operations.

Rotary ploughs

7. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of land locomotives specially designed and constructed as rotary ploughs notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply with the requirements of Regulations 25 and 26 of the Track Laying Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 11 feet 6 inches;

(*b*) the unladen weight of a vehicle shall not exceed 26 tons;

(*c*) no vehicle shall draw a trailer other than a living van or a trailer or trailers carrying the necessary gear and equipment of or fuel for the vehicle;

(*d*) where a vehicle exceeds 8 feet in overall width, and

(i) is not drawing a trailer, three persons inclusive of the driver or drivers shall be in attendance upon it, one of whom shall whenever necessary by reason of the width of the road or otherwise proceed at a reasonable distance in front of the vehicle, and another of whom shall whenever so necessary as aforesaid proceed at a reasonable distance behind the vehicle to give warning to other traffic on the road, and

(ii) is drawing one or more trailers, two persons shall drive or attend the vehicle and in addition at least one person shall be in attendance upon each trailer and such person or one of such persons in attendance upon the trailer or trailers as the case may be shall whenever necessary by reason of the width of the road or otherwise proceed at a reasonable distance behind the trailer or rearmost trailer to give warning to other traffic on the road; and

(*e*) before using a vehicle upon a road for a journey exceeding 5 miles the owner shall give four clear days' notice to the Inspector General and to the road authority for every road on which it will travel, and every such notice shall contain such particulars as are necessary to identify the vehicle and the time and route of the proposed journey.

The Inspector General or the road authority may in special cases or circumstances dispense with any of the foregoing requirements as to the length of notice or particulars to be given.

The owner shall carry out the journey in accordance with the particulars given by him in the notices provided that, if so required by the road authority on the ground that owing to adverse weather conditions or other special circumstances the road surface is abnormally susceptible to damage, they may require him to postpone the journey until such time as they notify him that he may undertake it.

Vehicles used for experiments or trials

8. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of vehicles in or in connection with the conduct of experiments or trials under section 13 of the Roads Improvement Act (Northern Ireland), 1928,(a) as amended by Section 28 of the Roads Act (Northern Ireland), 1948,(b) notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply with the requirements of the Use and Construction Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations.

(a) 18 & 19 Geo. 5, c. 10.
(b) 1948 c. 28.

Straddle carriers

9. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of motor vehicles constructed to straddle and lift their loads for the purpose of transportation and commonly known as straddle carriers notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of Regulations 8, 31 and 32 of the Use and Construction Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) no vehicle shall be used otherwise than for the purpose of demonstration or in the course of delivery on sale and, when so used, shall carry no load other than its necessary gear or equipment:

Provided that a vehicle which complies with the said Regulations 8 and 31 but not with the said Regulation 32 may be used whether laden or unladen for the purpose of passing from one part of any timberyard, factory, docks, works or other premises where the vehicle is being used to any other part thereof or to any other timberyard, factory, docks, works or other premises in the immediate neighbourhood;

(*b*) no vehicle shall draw a trailer;

(*c*) no vehicle shall travel at a speed exceeding 12 miles per hour;

(*d*) no vehicle shall be used on a road if the overall length of the vehicle, or of its load, or if the vehicle when laden exceeds 30 feet except with the consent of the Inspector General. Every application for such consent shall contain such particulars as are necessary to identify the vehicle and particulars of its overall length (including any load proposed to be carried) and of the roads on which it is proposed to be used and shall be made not less than two clear days (exclusive of Sundays and public holidays) before the day on which it is desired that the consent should take effect, provided that the Inspector General may in any special case or in special circumstances dispense with any of the foregoing requirements as to the length of notice or particulars to be given; and

(*e*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 9 feet 6 inches.

Land tractors used for reaping and threshing

10. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of land tractors constructed for the combined purpose of reaping and threshing notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply with the requirements of Regulations 27 and 28 of the Use and Construction Regulations, subject to the following conditions:—

(*a*) no vehicle shall draw a trailer other than a two-wheeled trailer used solely for the carriage of the necessary gear and equipment of the vehicle;

(*b*) the overall width of a vehicle if used during the months of July, August, September, October or November in any year shall not exceed 14 feet and if used at any other time shall not exceed 10 feet;

(*c*) where the overall width of a vehicle—

(i) exceeds 8 feet, but does not exceed 9 feet, one person, in addition to the driver, shall be in attendance;

(ii) exceeds 9 feet, two persons, in addition to the driver, shall be in attendance, one of whom shall whenever necessary proceed at a reasonable distance in front of the vehicle and the other of whom shall whenever necessary proceed at a reasonable distance behind the vehicle, in each case to give warning to other traffic on the road;

(*d*) before using upon a road for a journey exceeding 5 miles a vehicle the overall width of which exceeds 8 feet, the owner shall give not less than 24 hours' notice to the Inspector General, such notice containing such particulars as are necessary to identify the vehicle and particulars of the overall width of the vehicle and the time and route of the proposed journey.

The Inspector General may in special cases or circumstances dispense with any of the foregoing requirements as to the length of notice and particulars to be given. The owner shall carry out the journey in accordance with the particulars given by him in the notice subject to any variations in the time or route which he may be directed to make by the Inspector General; and

(*e*) no vehicle the overall width of which exceeds 10 feet shall travel at a speed exceeding 5 miles per hour and no other vehicle shall travel at a speed exceeding 10 miles per hour.

Mechanically propelled hay and straw balers

11. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of motor tractors constructed for the purpose of picking up, baling and binding hay or straw notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply with the requirements of Regulations 27 and 28 of the Use and Construction Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 8 feet;

(*b*) the overhang of a vehicle shall not exceed 8 feet; and

(*c*) no vehicle shall travel on a road at a speed exceeding 10 miles per hour.

Vehicles for moving excavated material

12. The Ministry authorises the use on roads of movable plant or equipment (other than engineering plant as defined in Article 13) being a heavy motor car or trailer or an articulated vehicle specially designed and constructed for use in private